

3-11-2010

# The Hilltop 3-11-2010

Hilltop Staff

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**WEATHER**

65  
54  
**Tomorrow:**  
60  
54

Established  
**1924**

# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.94

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Thursday, March 11, 2010

**Thursday's Notebook****BREAKING NEWS**

ACCORDING TO FORBES, BILL GATES IS NO LONGER THE RICHEST PERSON IN THE WORLD; MEXICAN TELECOM MOGUL CARLOS SLIM HOLDS THE TITLE.

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PAGE 10

## World-Renowned Chef Visits Cafe



Famed chef and author Mai Pham visited the Howard University Cafeteria to share some Thai and Vietnamese cooking tips and recipes with students as well as employees. Pham is the author of a *New York Times* best-seller recipe book.

BY CAMILLE AUGUSTIN  
Staff Writer

The heat was on in the Blackburn cafeteria as world-renowned chef Mai Pham, visited Howard University to share Thai and Vietnamese cuisines with students as well as cafeteria employees.

Students were greeted to the sizzling sounds of herbs and spices crackling against the noodles, and the smell of the curry chicken seasoned with lime and other ingredients filled the air. Curious students formed a long line as they had the choice of Vegetarian Pho Soup, Thai Green

Curry Chicken, Shrimp Pad Thai, Rice Pepper Salad Roll, and Jasmine Rice.

Born in Vietnam and raised in Thailand, Pham learned the art of cooking from her mother. "My mother was an excellent cook," said Pham. "Cooking was the only activity back then, but now young people have electronics like laptops and iPods." Pham migrated with her family to the United States in 1975 and attended the University of Maryland where she majored in journalism and minored in political science.

Pham said she never thought she would become a professional chef. Pham described her calling

as an "accident," but it was total fate for which she is grateful. Pham said she was able to find a connection to her roots through food, and despite the hardships of assimilating to American culture she had the ability to connect with the American community who was open to her native dishes.

Pham said her secret ingredients are the use of fresh herbs, which makes the dish taste better. One use of fresh herbs is using mint with grilled meat. "It brings out the flavor and texture of the meat," Pham said. The owner of a successful restaurant called Lemon Grass in Sacramento, Calif., Pham has traveled to

colleges and universities, such as George Washington University to expose students to Thai and Vietnamese cuisines.

Pham described the Howard University students as sophisticated and having an open mind to trying new options. "I love being around young people, they keep me young," chuckled Pham. Pham said she is not only giving the chefs in the café new recipes, but also exposing them a different culture. Students will still be able to enjoy Pham's recipes for weeks, as Café workers will continue to serve the dishes.

For her first time eating Thai food, sophomore musical theatre major Brandyn Poole said the food looked interesting and was eager to try her Shrimp Pad Thai. "This is a new learning experience and it is a nice change from the normal Café food," said Poole. "I wanted to try this food to say that I have done it."

Kevin Moses, sophomore biology major, was familiar with Thai and Vietnamese cuisines. By being a fan of Thai and Vietnamese food, Moses knew exactly which ingredients made his taste buds tingle. "The Pad Thai has a sweet and nutty taste given the peanut sauce which makes it very unique," said Moses. "The cilantro and other herbs add to the dish as well." Moses said this event was a great idea. "You can get bored of trying the same things, so this is different."

## Commission On Academic Renewal to Hold Town Hall Meetings

BY GRACE VIRTUE  
HU Office of Communications

Beginning March 24, the Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal (PCAR) will host a series of town hall meetings across the University campus, designed to broaden community participation in the ongoing discussions on academic renewal, which began last fall with the appointment of the commission by President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.

Alvin Thornton, Ph.D., chairman of the Commission, says PCAR aims to comprehensively review Howard's academic programs to ensure their continued efficacy in a challenging global environment.

"At each stage of the development of our nation and the African-American community, Howard renewed and restructured itself to address an ever changing level of excellence and quality the changing needs of our nation and underrepresented communities. Contemporary opportunities and challenges require that Howard review its academic programs and organizational structures to ensure that once gain it is able to carry out its mission and remain competitive in the higher education community," Thornton said.

Convened in fall 2009, the commission comprises 38 members of the Howard University faculty, including six representatives designated by the faculty senate; four members of the Howard University Staff Organization; four students; three administrators; one member of the Board of Trustees; and five external experts.

The Commission's work will culminate in spring 2010 when a full report and recommendations will be submitted to the president.

Thornton says the process is designed in a way that will draw on the collective wisdom of the campus community through ongoing communication and substantive engagement before making final recommendations to the president.

This is being facilitated through regular meetings of the commission, an interactive Web site, periodic reports, meetings with academic departments and schools and colleges and town hall meetings.

Town hall meetings are scheduled for March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the School of Business Auditorium and on March 30, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, will focus on the uniqueness of Howard University.

Three additional meetings—Wednesday, March 31, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the School of Social Work auditorium; Thursday, April 8, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the School of Law, and Tuesday, April 13, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the College of Medicine Auditorium, will focus on the status of the Commission's work.

"Operating on the premise that the United States and the world need Howard more than ever, we are using this opportunity to review what we do and how we do it so we can better address areas of critical societal and human needs and so that we can continue to educate a new generation of leaders," said President Ribeau.

## Future Entrepreneurs Gather To Talk Fashion

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Campus Editor

Entrepreneurship and fashion were the topics at the program entitled "Blacks In Fashion," put on by the Howard chapters of Entertainment Power Players (EPP) and Black Retail Action Group (BRAG).

The event consisted of three entrepreneurs and power players in the fashion industry who came to give students pursuing careers in fashion a taste of what the real world is like for African Americans, especially African-American women. Howard alumnus Shari Peerzada and former BRAG members Ida Lewis-Polite and Rosemary E. Miller graced the panel with the background knowledge for success.

Senior public relations and director for BRAG, Angela

Richardson, said the organizations decided to put on this event to celebrate black history, but also to educate students at Howard on what blacks have done in the fashion industry for the last few years. "This is something that will give students insight at the buying power that blacks have in fashion and also the influence we have through our style."

President of EPP, Kai Deveraux Lawson, said EPP wanted to branch into the fashion industry side of entertainment. "We have never been able to tap into the fashion side. Everybody talks about what different celebrities are wearing; fashion plays a big part in entertainment."

Lewis-Polite, who has her own clothing store in D.C. called "Ida's Ideas," spoke to students about ways to set up their own. She said students should identify their market, keep money saved

up for about three to four months and start at the beginning of a season in order to start a successful business.

"The business advice was definitely what I learned the most from. What it gave us was the real stuff in the classes we take here at Howard, which shows this is what we need to make it in the real world," said Lawson. She said that self-promotion was the most important thing she learned. "You are your best representative."

Miller, who has been in the fashion industry both as an entrepreneur and journalist for over 30 years, discussed her life as an entrepreneur in D.C. in the 60s. Her store was then located in Dupont Circle where not many black people didn't live, but came across town to buy items from her store. She said the reason that she has stayed in the fashion industry for so long is because of where she

started. "When you start out on the design end, it's a very functional way of looking at fashion because you are actually creating fashion," Miller said. She grew up writing letters to fashion magazines for their underrepresentation of African-American women. "If they get letters from one person it represents 100 people that didn't send letters," she said.

Peerzada, who has her own clothing line called "Saharah," talked to students from a designer's point of view, including information about manufacturing and trade shows. "It's something that comes easily for me; I've been doing it for so long," she said.

Richardson said the most dynamic thing about the panel was that it showed students that black women play a valuable role in the fashion industry.

## Students Unite for Suicide Awareness

On Wednesday, Howard students gathered to help save a life. The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences brought students together in the Mental Health Clinic for a training session to recognize warning signs of suicide. The department was also there to offer solutions on how to get help and offer guidance for those in need. Students who completed the session were given certificates.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, for young adults ages 15 to 24 years old, where suicides account for 12 percent of deaths, there are approximately 100 to 200 attempts for every completed suicide.



Sean Robinson - Photo Editor

Tahirah Hairston, Campus Editor



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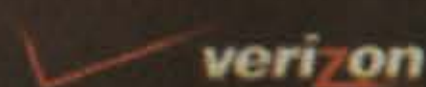


how the  
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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Contest entry ends 5/17/2010. Each member of choir must be 18 years of age or older as of 1/10/2010 and legal resident of U.S. and D.C. (excl. Puerto Rico & other U.S. territories). Void outside of U.S. and where prohibited by law. For a complete list of rules visit [www.HowSweetTheSound.com](http://www.HowSweetTheSound.com) or call 800.230.2010 to receive a copy. All music and performance images are property of Verizon Wireless. Verizon Wireless is the sponsor of the Verizon Wireless How Sweet the Sound Choir Contest. How Sweet the Sound™ is a trademark of TBS. Holiday, Concerts, Cosmopolis Inc., DVD & Drive-Perkins. All rights reserved. © 2010 Verizon Wireless. HSTS

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## Moment of Clarity

Same Tradition, Same Results



BY ANDREW JONES  
Contributing Columnist

This week, the university community will take time to reflect on the 143-year history of Howard with its customary convocation and gala. As usual, members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, students, staff and friends of Howard will gather for the formal celebration. The university will also honor seven distinguished alumni for their accomplishments in their various careers. With all that said, my only question is, "Is that all?"

Yes, we should pause in celebration of our university's chartering and honor those who contribute to its legacy with their careers. Yes, we should gather everyone in the community together in Cramton for the pomp and circumstance. Yes, we should all get dressed up to network and fellowship at the exclusive black-tie gala. Yet despite all of that, the fact remains that we should do WAY more.

There are few times when a university can get everyone under the same roof each year. This occasion should provide an opportunity to use that synergy for more than just ceremony. So many people travel great distances to be here. Why relegate their participation to convocation and a gala?

Each year, the university grants honorary degrees to distinguished alumni or professionals. At the Opening Convocation, Charter Day, and Commencement, degrees are given out with much rhetoric and reflection. Instead of just seeing these leaders during that one day when they are given the degree, why not truly adopt them actively back into the community? Imagine the strength of our student body if they could tap into the expertise of these honorees year after year at programs and events on campus. Consider the fundraising potential if we humbly requested that each of these honorees host a university fundraiser every few years.

While we have everyone from the students of MS2 to the Board of Trustees together for a few days, why not discuss the future of our university interactively? Conversations about the direction of our institution should not be limited to the boardroom; why not gather key stakeholders from each part of the university for a roundtable or forum?

These questions are not meant to call out any one particular entity in the university. In fact, every entity could do better to capitalize on this occasion. Student government should reach out to some of the distinguished leaders here for informative programming. The Board of Trustees should plan an open event for members to interact with the rest of us. The administration should set a standard of commitment from these honorees with the same level of passion that they use to honor them.

We all need to increase the thoughtfulness and purpose of our efforts to take this university well into the future. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. There is nothing more insane than performing the same celebration for 143 years and expecting an increasing level of support or benefit from it. Let us all have fun in celebration this week, but let us also come together to plan a more effective week for next year.

# The Hilltop Introduces...

## Miss Howard Adrian Pruett

BY LAUREN GASPARD  
Staff Writer

Elegance, poise, and talent are just a few characteristics that exude through the new Ms. Howard University, junior Adrian Pruett. A native of Atlanta, Pruett comes from a strong background of education, success, and great example.

Prior to her crowning, Pruett received the honors of being crowned Miss Bethune Annex 2008-2009, Miss ResFest 2009-2010, and Miss College of Arts and Sciences 2009-2010, which led her to her current reign as Miss Howard University. In addition, Pruett has also been actively involved on campus. Her main commitment is to the Howard University Choir where she serves as the student conductor. She has also become a member of a number of organizations in the past and present, such as Howard Singers from 2007-2008, SAASY Jazz Vocal Ensemble from 2008-2009, and currently Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity Incorporated, Alpha Tau Chapter where she serves as programs chair.

Born and raised in the same house in College Park, Pruett is a true Georgia Peach. She is the youngest daughter in her family and she grew up with a wide diversity of friends. When her parents sent her to a school far away from their house she wasn't able to participate in social activities after school. "I spent a lot of time doing creative projects or finding ways to stay entertained especially since we didn't have cable until I was in 8th grade. I still see the impacts of

those days because to this day I can spend an entire day by myself and never get bored," she said.

It was in eighth grade when Pruett first joined her middle school's choir but only so that she could eat lunch with her friends. But this is where she found her voice. "I consider my voice a big part of who I am because it's the way I deliver the depths of my mind to people," she said.

As a music education major, her involvement with the Howard University Choir has given Pruett the opportunity to travel various parts of the world, such as St. Petersburg, Russia and the People's Republic of China which have proven to benefit her greatly.

As the representative of the female population at Howard University, Pruett plans to use her platform, "Where is the Love?; Getting Down to the Heart of the Matter On Relationships in the Black Community." "An alarming number of black women live life without every marrying, and furthermore the number of single parent homes is growing rapidly," said Pruett. "[By] discussing and discovering the truths about internal and external relationships in the black community, my mission is to increase the percentage of double parent families amongst our people."

Prior to last Friday's pageant, Pruett developed a strong connection with alumna who formerly held the crown of Miss Howard from previous years. Through cultivating these relationships, Adrian learned that the biggest task of being Miss Howard University is maintaining your self-image. "I got



Photo Courtesy of Adrian Pruett

Pruett said on really bad days her mom always advises her to go onto the street and smile at everyone then see the smiles she gets back.

the chance to meet a number of former Howard Queens, each of which had her own sense of self," said Pruett. "It made even more sense then how Kendall Isadore [Miss Howard, 2008-2010] always said, 'No one can teach you how to be Miss Howard. You have to find the way that works for you to make change in your community.'"

In addition to her inspiring words for Pruett, Isadore, former Miss Howard University encouraged both Mr. and Miss Howard to not rush to achieve greatness, but to work at it.

"Sometimes people see the image or would see us at campus or off-campus events and expect that we always had it together," said Isadore. "I just took it one step at a time. When I felt overwhelmed, I stopped and took time to myself. Times will get rough, but you must rely on each other, your court, your advisor, friends and family to carry you through."

With the middle name "Love," which was the name that every one called her great grandmother on her father's side, Pruett said it speaks to the both ancestral side and guiding principle in her life. "It reminds me of the lineage of women that worked so that I can stand where I chose to stand in life."

Pruett has big plans to increase awareness of relationships in the black community, starting with promoting her ideals and plans within the District community. "My philosophy is that by tackling the issues of self love, healthy couple relationships, and understanding of family responsibility, we as Bison will be more prone to have stable family relationships, thus creating a more comfortable world for the next generation," said Pruett.

## Mr. Howard Jeffrey Pugh

BY LAUREN GASPARD  
Staff Writer

"I am here to serve. It is not only my duty, but my honor and privilege," said junior Jeffrey Pugh. Last Friday, Cramton Auditorium was captivated by the emotion, fervor, passion and confidence exuding from the 11th contestant to grace the stage. The audience became enthralled with his immaculate style, commanding voice and confident presence. His eyes welled up with tears as the final results read the newly crowned Mr. Howard University, Pugh would finally take his throne.

Now Pugh is faced with the biggest challenge of his life, living up to his great predecessors, and being a representative of the male students of one of the most prestigious institutions in the world.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wis., and the seventh of thirteen children, Pugh is no stranger to responsibility. Pugh will be the first in his immediate family to graduate from college, and with this motivation, Pugh plans to increase awareness of the male presence within Howard University overall.

"One of the biggest ways that we can increase the male presence here at Howard is to increase the male retention rate," said Pugh. "It's not enough to just encourage the students to stay in school and try their hardest. We have to identify the problem and work to find

solutions."

In his hometown of Milwaukee, Pugh was very influential in his community. Pugh was recently honored by the Wisconsin Council on Families and Children for his work in the community through the YMCA and youth activist group, Urban Underground. Pugh is also extremely involved in his home church Christ the King Baptist church in Milwaukee.

Pugh plans to be devoted to the Howard community as well. He is already actively involved in a number of organizations on campus and in the community. He is currently a peer educator for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a mentor for young African-American males with the Brothers of Kwanzaa, and a member of Christian Brothers United, the Wisconsin Club and Howard Players. Through a strong will and a persistent effort, Pugh has worked nonstop to find the truth in his work. He looks to prove that his service to the community is nothing less than "authentic."

Former Miss Howard 2008-2010 University, Kendall Isadore, encouraged the newly crowned leaders not to limit themselves in what they choose to do while reigning.

"Adrian [Pruett] and Jeff are here to serve the students of Howard University," said Isadore. "At the end of your reign, you want to be able to see the change you made. You want the university to be able to say you made a differ-

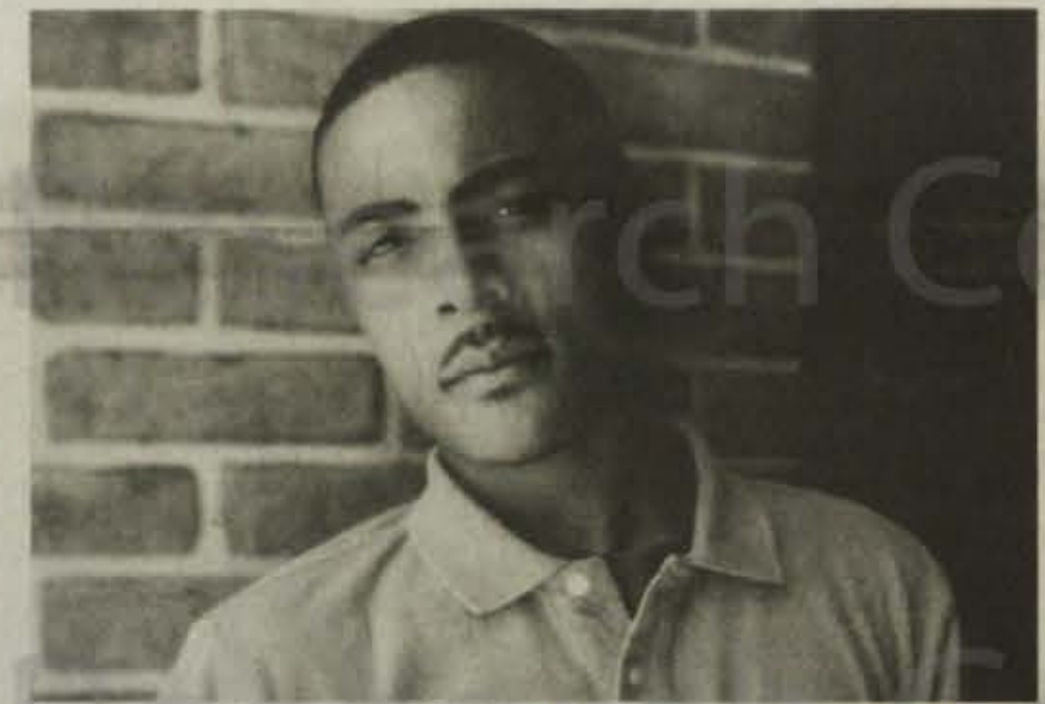


Photo Courtesy of Jeffrey Pugh

Mr. Howard 2010-2011 Pugh looks up to former Mr. Howard 2007-2008 Edward Williams for inspiration.

ence in some way."

Isadore also offered words of wisdom, encouraging Pugh and Pruett to remember that their occupations as students are always top priority. "While they are expected to represent each Howard University student, you are still people," said Isadore. "You can't get lost in the crown or the sash. In the past, students have revered Mr. and Miss Howard to the point that they were afraid to talk to them or hold them accountable even. Be true to yourself and don't change who you are as a person or what morals you believe in for the sake of the image."

Pugh was admonished by former Mr. Howard University 2007-2008 Edward Williams' advice that transparency and integ-

ity will gain him the most respect from the Howard University community. "Edward Williams told me to be myself," said Pugh. "He said that Howard can smell through the insincerity, so I should always present me in a true and authentic way." Pugh was also influenced by the most recent Mr. Howard University 2008-2010, Melech Thomas, who said to be visible and active is the most important part of his position. "When putting my sash on me at the Mr. and Miss Howard Pageant last Friday Melech said, 'Real leadership starts now,'" said Pugh. "Don't hide behind the sash! Therefore, my first priority is to the students and the Howard University community."

# Happy Spring Break Everyone!

*What happens on Spring Break stays on  
Spring Break. ;)*

# Live. Laugh. Make Memories.



## District Same-Sex Marriage Equality Act Goes into Effect

BY CANDESE CHARLES  
Editorial Assistant

Zealous same-sex couples lined up at the D.C. Marriage Bureau inside the Moultrie Courthouse as their union became legal in the nation's capital.

The epic day in history began just after 6 a.m. on March 3 when two domestic couples claimed the first spot in line. Washington became the sixth place in the nation to allow same-sex marriage, following Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The law was signed by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty in December and put on hold due to a congressional review that ended Tuesday. Voting took place Dec. 1, 2009 with 13 members of the D.C. council voting in favor of the Marriage Equality Act. The vote, however, was not unanimous with two opposing and 11 for the act to be put in effect.

Though D.C. churches are exempt from having to perform same-sex wedding ceremonies, the bill continues to not have the support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

In addition, the congregation is worried about the cost of Catholic charities having to extend services to spouses of same-sex marriages.

Opponents of gay marriage attempted to have the U.S. Supreme Court put the new law on hold, but Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. rejected the idea the day before the law was put into effect.

"The government

shouldn't have a say in who you're allowed to get married to. It should be up to the people," said Tanzania Bridgett, a sophomore telecommunications management major and supporter of same-sex marriages.

The symbolic victory in the nation's capital has already begun to affect other states.

On Feb. 24, Maryland's Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler issued a legal opinion to follow the bandwagon and recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states where it is already legal.

The Marriage Equality Act has also allowed for a few minor changes in the application process.

Consistent with heterosexual marriages, same-sex couple vying for marriage must have a witness, pay \$35 for the marriage license application, \$10 for marriage license, and have an ID for the entire party involved.

Same-sex couples must already have an official chosen for their marriage ceremony. The pair must then wait three full business days to acquire their license after their application is submitted.

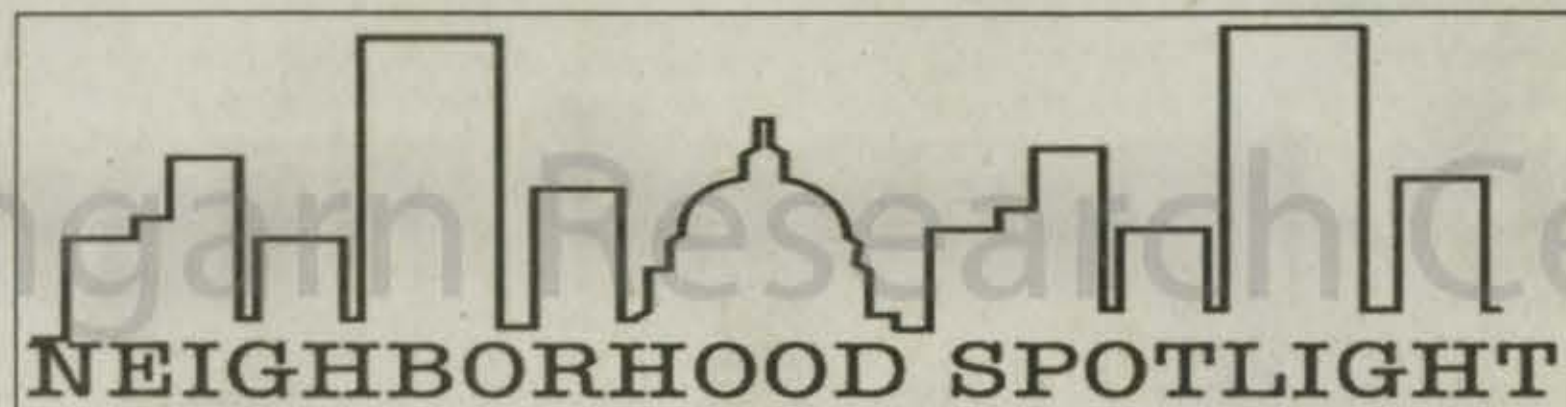
Furthermore, court officials explained the application is also more accepting to the new marriages with the "bride" and "groom" being referred to as "spouse" for each.

In addition, the official who performs the marriage must now read "I now pronounce you legally married," rather than the traditional statement made at the end of the ceremony.



Photo From DCCondoLoft.com

Columbia Heights has shopping stores Target, Best Buy and Marshalls as well as eateries like Chipotle and Potbelly.



## Columbia Heights

BY MICHAEL WATERS  
Contributing Writer

Columbia Heights is historically a part of the same Holmead estate from which the Pleasant Plains neighborhood originated. It was originally part of Washington County before the D.C. Organic Act of 1871 expanded Washington to include the entire District of Columbia.

"I live here, shop here, and spend most of my time in this area," said Patrick Casey as he leaves the Giant grocery store. Casey has lived in "the Heights" for nearly four years.

In the early 1900s, a movement began to attract more residents to the Columbia Heights neighborhood.

Upscale developments attracted such residents as author Sinclair Lewis and Justice John Marshall Harlan.

Eventually, the suburban feel of the neighborhood gave way to large apartment buildings and subsequently, an influx of new residents.

The neighborhood still maintained its upscale feel despite the change through the construction of such landmarks as the Tivoli Theatre. The movie theatre that now holds live productions is on the corner of 14th Street and Park Road. It is now home to GALA (Grupos de Artistas latinos Americanos) Hispanic Theatre, a non-profit Hispanic arts group.

Meridian Hill Park is a National Historic landmark. The park was officially opened in 1936. The park features several fountains and four prominent statues including one of former president James Buchanan.

Columbia Heights is also home to the embassies of several countries including Ecuador, Poland, and Lithuania. The ambassador of Spain also resides in the neighborhood.

Columbia Heights has also served as a successful middle-class black community throughout the years. Among the prominent black residents was musician Duke Ellington.

Cardozo High School opened in 1949 to serve the growing African-American population. Despite the thriving black community, riots brought on by the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 destroyed many homes and businesses that would remain vacant until the revitalization began in 1999.

"I really have no complaints," said Casey. "I feel safe here. I don't have a family or any children yet, but I would be comfortable raising them here and the community is only improving as far as I see."

One of the newer additions and now major attraction is the D.C. USA retail complex that opened in 2008. The complex was built in 2008 across the street from the Columbia Heights Metro station. The building contains a Tar-

get, Best Buy, Marshalls, Payless, Bed, Bath & Beyond and other popular establishments.

The addition has helped to attract more consumers than ever and has contributed to the economic revitalization of the neighborhood.

"It's so convenient," said resident Kimberly Gates. "I have always liked the area, but when they built this shopping area it really brought more attention and money into Columbia Heights."

One of the most compelling aspects on the Columbia Heights is the way that it handled the revitalization process. Despite gentrification and the arrival of many new businesses and residents, the neighborhood has managed to maintain diverse.

Somehow Columbia Heights has successfully integrated high-priced housing and condominiums with public and moderately priced housing.

One of the biggest misconceptions about Columbia Heights is the ethnic makeup of its population. It is common for visitors to get the false impression that Columbia Heights is primarily made up of Hispanic residents. In fact, Columbia Heights is primarily African American.

However, those beliefs are not completely unfounded. Columbia Heights has a higher percentage of Hispanic residents than any other neighborhood. Caucasian residents only comprise 5 percent of the population.



Photo From CSMonitor.com

Starting March 3, same sex marriage in Washington, D.C. has been legal.

## Weekend Guide

The Low Anthem  
Millennium  
Stage  
Kennedy  
Center  
2700 F St.  
NW  
Thursday  
6 p.m.  
Free

"The Bluest Eye"  
Clarice  
Smith Performing Arts  
at Maryland University of  
Maryland College Park  
Thursday  
7:30 p.m.  
Friday 8 p.m.  
\$26

D.C. Independent  
Film  
Festival  
U.S. Navy Memorial  
and Naval Heritage Center  
701 Pennsylvania Ave  
NW  
Through  
3/14

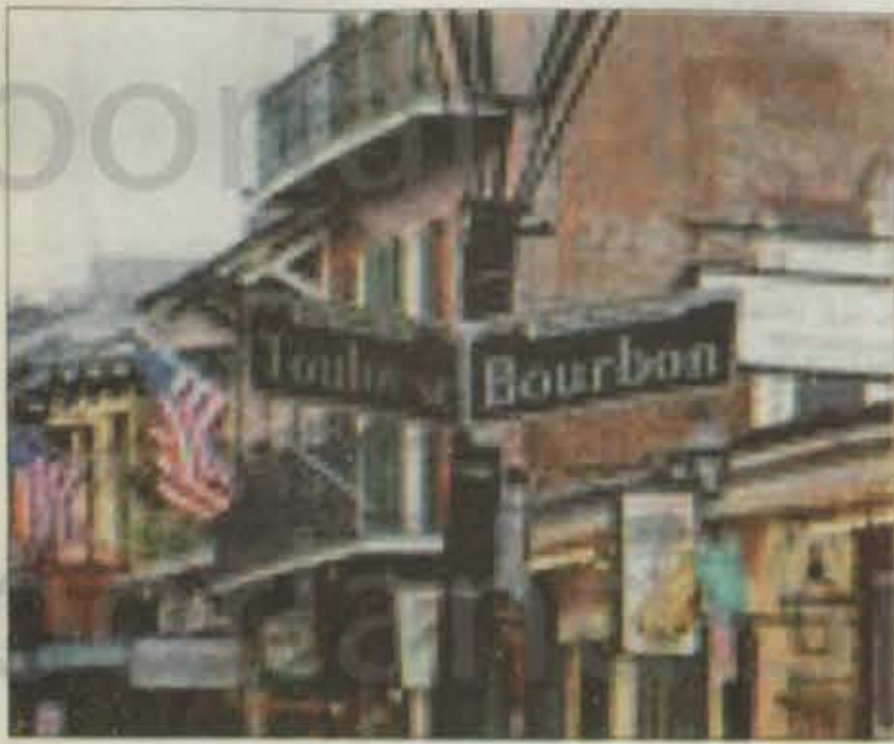
Diplomatic Caribbean  
Celebration  
Organization of American  
States  
1889 F St.  
NW  
Friday  
8 p.m. - Midnight  
\$105

Al Green  
Constitution  
Hall  
1776 D St.  
NW  
Friday & Saturday 8  
p.m.  
\$70



# Spring Breakers Plan to Touch Down, Lift Up

## New Orleans, La.



## Chicago, Ill.



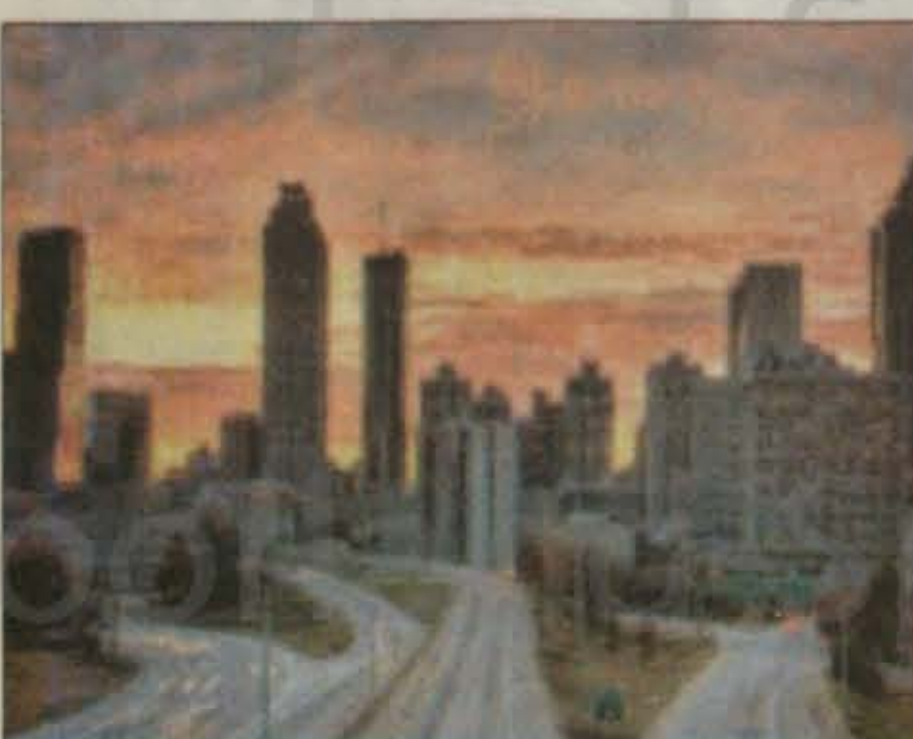
## Detroit, Mich.



## Washington, D.C.



## Atlanta, Ga.



## Howard Students Take Annual Alternative Spring Break Trip

BY OLLIE MONTGOMERY  
Staff Writer

Spring Break is finally here, for some of people at least. Begrudgingly the rest of us will have class today and possibly even after tomorrow's Charter Day celebrations.

Nevertheless, the moment we've been waiting for since Snowmagedon will take us to places such as Miami, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico or simply back home to work see the family and make a quick buck. Yet for a carefully selected 300 Howard University students, this is an opportunity to give back to their communities.

This year for Alternative Spring Break (ASB), 2010 students will visit cities such as Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, and New Orleans, while others will stay in D.C. to do their part locally.

The students will join about 50 students from the Howard University Law School on buses leaving from Cramton Auditorium on Saturday. The total trip will be a complete week, as students will return the following Saturday, March 20th between Noon and 2pm.

For the first time, Atlanta has joined the list of cities on the Alternative Spring Break project. Erica Jai Lindsay, Alternative Spring Break 2010 Student Coordinator, told *The Hilltop* that Atlanta was chosen out of New York and Philadelphia. Atlanta's heavy representation on campus in the student population combined with logistical and financial benefits ultimately made it the perfect choice. In addition, the mayoral race in Atlanta last year played a big part.

"We just got Kasim Reed at the time that he was running for Mayor and we knew he was a Howard grad and on the board here at Howard", Lindsay said. "We knew we'd have the support and he's starting an initiative for youth development, so it's a good time to have a Howard presence down there."

In Atlanta, the ASB crew will work primarily with youth development in local schools to help students with testing. Later, the students will work with Upward Bound, where they will mentor college-bound students to explain college life and offer various student mentorship opportunities. In addition the team will work with Hands On Atlanta, where they will do community service events throughout the week.

Other students will be traveling south, but this time back to New Orleans. Lindsay explains that this year things will be a bit different.

"The focus is the same in terms of environmental protection, but the need has slight shifted," she said. "When we first went down the need was to fix after Hurricane Katrina, but now the need isn't as strong, so they're breaching out to other organizations."

Students from the Law School will help New Orleans residents with their legal matters via partnerships with many local law organizations and law firms. Undergraduate students will help rebuild churches, homes and playgrounds.

In the Midwest, trips to Chicago and Detroit remain and will resume the work they did where they left off last year. In Detroit the focus will be literacy. Howard students will visit Highland Park High School to mentor and tutor as in Atlanta. They will also

work with the Salvation Army and Plymouth Church for different community service opportunities.

In Chicago, the focus is once again gun violence. Return visits to South Shore High School and Inglewood High School are on the itinerary to mentor and console victims of gun violence. Many students have family or know of someone who has been slain by such violence. They will also work with religious figures in the city, such as Father Pfleger.

"He's really big on gun violence and they'll be going to Springfield to lobby on different bills," she said. Their work will combine activism with lobbying for stricter gun control legislation.

Austin Edwards, sophomore political science major will be among the students traveling to Chicago. Edwards said, "Chicago is definitely politics oriented and on top of doing the anti-gun violence when we see the kids, I know we're going to be canvassing and appeals to me as a political science major." Edwards choose Chicago as a chance to see a major city he hasn't before as well involve himself in a "worthy cause."

Some Alternative Spring Break students will actually work in Washington, D.C. this year. The focus is on younger, elementary school students. Peer-to-peer mentorship is a continuing theme here in the District. Homelessness will also be tackled. Yet, for the first time, lobbying on Capitol Hill will be tried as well.

However, Alternative Spring Break is more than simply work for a good cause. It's actually fun. Erica Jai Lindsay explains that when she first went on her Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans in 2008, she finished work at the latest by 4pm, leaving her with plenty of time to visit family or do whatever she wanted to do. This year, in cities such as Atlanta, students will be finished by 6 p.m. and will be free to do what they want there and in the other four locations. Bowling night and other activities will be provided to for students to have fun and shuttles will provide transportation to high profile events.

"You get to explore the city a lot and you have a lot of free time," she said.

In addition, connections with the alumni in the area have been created. Each Alternative Spring Break team has been in contact with each city's respective Alumni Association, where students will be able to meet the alumni and connect the past with the present.

The buses for ASB 2010 leave from Cramton Auditorium this Saturday at noon, yet students who didn't make this year's roster or will be in the areas of the Alternative Spring Break team may still join their efforts. The Alternative Spring Break office has received a lot of emails about the issue and requests that students email their concerns to the main email accounts to account for them.

"The desire to serve is still there, but then there are still logistical matters that we can't overlook," said Lindsay. "Everybody that's willing to help should be accommodated."

Alternative Spring Break wraps up the following Saturday, March 20th as buses return to the main Howard University Campus between Noon and 2pm.





# What's Going on in the District?

*Will you be in D.C. for Spring Break? Chocolate City has something for you!*

**What:** Shamrock Fest (an annual festival featuring DJs and bands)  
**When:** Saturday March 13  
**Where:** RFK Stadium  
 2400 East Capitol St. SE  
**Price:** \$19.99 – \$59.99

**What:** The Very Best  
**When:** Sunday March 14 8 p.m.  
**Where:** The Rock and Roll Hotel  
 1353 H St. NE  
**Price:** \$15

**What:** Women in Art: Body of Work  
**When:** Through March 21  
**Where:** Del Ray Artisans  
 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Mount Vernon, Va.

**What:** WWII Films  
**When:** Tuesday March 16 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** William G. McGowan Theater – National Archives  
 700 Pennsylvania Ave NW

**What:** DCist Exposed Photography Show  
**When:** Wednesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. (Until March 21)  
**Where:** Long View Gallery  
 1234 9th St. NW  
**Price:** Free

**What:** It's Cheaper To Keep Her

**When:** March 18 – Sunday March 21  
 Thursday – Friday 8 p.m.  
 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday  
 3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** Warner Theatre  
 13th & E Streets NW  
**Price:** \$37.50 - \$57.50

**What:** Gina Welch  
**When:** Saturday 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Politics & Prose Bookstore  
 5015 Connecticut Ave NW

**What:** Spring Fever  
**When:** Saturday 9:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Cabanas  
 3050 K St. NW  
**Price:** Free w/RSVP

**What:** A Raisin in the Sun  
**When:** Through March 14 3:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Harmony Hall Regional Center  
 10701 Livingston Rd. Fort Washington, Md.  
**Price:** \$15; \$12 for seniors and students

**What:** Wednesday Open Mic  
**When:** Wednesday March 17 9:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Busboys and Poets  
 1025 5th St NW  
**Price:** \$3



## Spring Break Safety Tracks

*As we close in on Spring Break, it is hard not to think of the outlandish adventures that might occur. However we've all see the headlines regarding the tragedies and misfortunes of students being targeted by predators, therefore fun should come with guidelines. Given the potential for danger that may be lurking, here are some hot songs from artists that compliment the very important rules that need to be utilized while you're having the time of your life:*

1. **"Can I Take You Home" Jamie Foxx** - We all know the buddy system, so stay with your friends at all times and don't get mad when they refuse to let you go off alone. It is not blocking during spring break; it's called looking out!
2. **"Always Strapped" Birdman & Lil' Wayne** - Be prepared and safe for whatever may come while away from home. Pack Protection aids from the sun and unwanted diseases.
3. **"Don't Leave Me" Blackstreet** - Some things just apply everywhere—Don't leave drinks unattended. If you do, it's not yours anymore.
4. **"Big Pimpin" Jay-Z feat. Bun B** - It's common to see Howard students walking around campus in all the right gear like true religion jeans, and jewelry that can nearly blind someone walking up the hill. However, don't be too flossy while away from home because you're just asking to get jacked.
5. **"Money to Blow" Lil' Wayne feat. Drake & Birdman** -You got money? Good for you! But when you put your business out there, it's up for grabs. And let's not make it rain on the first spot we hit on vacation. It's not okay to mooch off your friends after the second day because your money "vanished".
6. **"Say Ahh" Trey Songz feat. Fabolous** - Don't blame it on the alcohol; it's all on you. If you have to drink while going out, know your limit. Don't be the friend who ruins everyone else's time because you're always on a tilt. Being drunk is not an excuse for bad behavior; you represent HU wherever you go. Plus it is not safe, so drink responsibly and in accordance with the local laws on drinking age.
7. **"Wassup" Rich Kids** - Partying at HU is different and might not fly somewhere else. Know the laws and be aware of the social customs in the area that might create safety issues for you and your friends.
8. **"Roger That" Young Money** - Though our mission for break is to get away from the daily grind, staying in contact with family is crucial. Let them know where you're going and for how long—don't travel blindly!
9. **"Say Something" Timbaland feat. Drake** - Know that feeling uncomfortable is unacceptable. When you vibe that something or someone isn't right, you need to speak up. Just because you are more aware of your surroundings, doesn't mean the rest of your friends are.
10. **"Women Lie, Men Lie" Yo Gotti feat. Lil' Wayne** - Don't put all your information out there. If someone wants too much information including where you stay, tell him or her to keep it moving or make something up. Play the alias game with your friends and make up a false life. Little white lies won't hurt people you don't care to know.
11. **"Run This Town" Jay-Z feat. Rihanna & Kanye West** - Let's try to remember that if we're going to a place that is unknown to us, do not pop off at the mouth like we run the place. This is not your turf. Not everyone is visiting on spring break and they may not be afraid to put you in your place.



# The Out-of-Towners...

*Here are some of the top vacation spots this year*



Can you guess which picture belongs to which city? Hint: Some of them are not U.S. territory!  
From top left to right, to bottom: Los Angeles, Cancun, New Orleans, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Jamaica.



## Top 10 Tips to Stay Safe

1. Take two forms of ID in case you lose one.
2. Don't wonder aimlessly by yourself.
3. Make sure you have your health information handy with you on vacation.
4. Drink bottled water at all times.
5. Purchase travel insurance in case your luggage is lost.
6. Carry a cell phone at all times in case of an emergency.
7. Be aware of local laws, rules and regulations.
8. Always lock and bolt your hotel room even when your inside of it.
9. Make use of the safe located in most hotel rooms for your valuables such as your passport and other things you may not want to carry with you everyday.
10. Be safe! Wrap it up! Bring Condoms.

## Where are you going for Spring Break?



"I'm going on tour with HGC [Hilltop Gospel Choir]."

- LaJoyce Denson,  
musical education



"I'm going to Alabama...to spend time with my boyfriend."

- Imani Little,  
biology



"I'm going to Virginia to visit the fam."

- Emique Hansel,  
advertising



"I'll be here in D.C."

- Craig Montague,  
advertising



"I'm going home to spend some time with my family."

- Adrian Pruitt,  
music education



# Now Hiring

THE HILLTOP POLICY BOARD IS NOW  
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BLACKBURN CENTER SUITE 117

SUBMISSION DATE ON OR BEFORE

MARCH 12, 2010 BEFORE 2:00 P.M.

[www.thehilltoponline.com](http://www.thehilltoponline.com)

# The Business of MUSIC BUSINESS

Presented by Office of Student Activities  
Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity  
Bison Yearbook and Eastern Power Players

MARCH 11, 2010  
7:00PM, BLACKBURN DIGITAL AUDITORIUM

PANEL ABOUT MUSIC BUSINESS AND A  
*Student Showcase*  
Featuring the industry's most influential  
label Executives, and recording artist,  
producer and songwriter.

Featuring  
*The Singleton Entertainment Group*

Dear Bison,

Have a great  
Spring Break!

Be safe and  
happy travels  
to you all!

Bring us back  
a souvenir!

Love,  
The Hilltop

P.S. Don't forget  
to follow us on  
Twitter!

[www.twitter.com/@thehilltop](http://www.twitter.com/@thehilltop)

# NOTICE

## TO PURGED STUDENTS

Dear Students:

This year, extraordinary efforts were made to contact those students whose class schedules were in jeopardy of being purged. Students with difficulty satisfying their outstanding balance were strongly encouraged to visit the Office of Student Accounts to discuss extended payment options and alternative financing.

Due to this effort, the University provided significant financial assistance to support registered students in achieving matriculation. However, we recognize the financial difficulties of many of our students during this time of economic challenges.

All purged students are again encouraged to visit our Office of Student Accounts, located in Suite 115 of the Administration building, on or before Friday, March 12, 2010 between the hours of 8:30am – 3:00pm.

Our representatives will be assisting these students in exploring extended payment options and alternative financing to achieve financial validation.

Sincerely,

Sevester Bell,  
Executive Director  
Office of Student Financial Services



# Wall Street Firm Sued For Super Bowl Ad

BY ALEXIS K BARNES  
Business & Technology Editor

Actress Lindsay Lohan has filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Wall Street firm, E-Trade, claiming the firm's television ad was modeled after her.

Aired on Super Bowl Sunday, talking babies engage in conversation involving online banking and idle chatter that refers to a "milkaholic Lindsay."

The 23-year-old actress has publicly sought substance abuse treatment and claims the reference is in regards to her.

Although her full name was never mentioned, Lohan's New York lawyer argues that her client's first name alone is as recognizable as Oprah or Madonna.

Brittney Black, a senior legal communications major, thinks Lohan does not deserve \$100 million for her "pain and suffering regarding the advertisements."

"I feel she is being overly sensitive," Black said. "She is a celebrity — a public figure — so she knows her business and life are constantly going to be judged or scrutinized."

Lohan laid bare the extent of her drug addiction to media outlets, confessing that she came close to killing herself, often mixing alcohol and cocaine.

The actress visited rehab three times and was jailed after being caught with cocaine.

She told Fox News that her problems got worse when her father



Famed actress Lindsay Lohan recently filed a \$100 million law suit against E-Trade, a Wall Street financial corporation, for airing a television ad that Lohan claims negatively depicts her. The ad shows two babies conversing about online trading and referencing a "milkaholic Lindsay."

Michael, a former drug addict who abused her mother Dina, started talking about his daughter to the press in 2007.

On top of monetary retribution, Lohan's legal team is seeking

an injunction so that the commercial cannot be aired in the future.

"I definitely feel like Lohan's name holds weight in terms of recognition, but she cannot be held in the ranks of Madonna or Oprah,"

said Charmese Wilson, a senior broadcast journalism major. "For her to sue for \$100 million, I feel is ridiculous. The Super Bowl was months ago."

Senior print journalism ma-

jor Makula Dunbar associates Lohan with drug use.

"I feel the advertisement was referencing alcoholism. So if she automatically thought it was about her, that's sad," he said.

## This Just In...

- **Toyota owners nationwide have joined forces, filing at least 89 class-action lawsuits claiming that the major recalls for safety issues have caused the value of their vehicles to plummet. Total lawsuit expenses could cost the Japanese automaker \$3 billion or more.**
- **Sony will start selling 3-D televisions starting in June. Although the company has yet to announce a global launch date, 40 and 46-inch models will be available in Japan and 52 and 60-inch TVs will be available July 16.**
- **Chevron Corp. announced Tuesday it will cut 2,000 jobs this year as it struggles in the current economy. It also plans to sell some overseas operations.**
- **Bank of America has announced an end to overdraft fees on debit cards. Customers will no longer be able to spend more than they have in their accounts.**
- **The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers reopened talks to allocate the suffix .xxx to Web sites containing pornography. This domain name would allow easier blockage of the sites by parents.**

-Information compiled by  
Alexis K. Barnes, Business & Technology Editor

### FINIS: XtreaMP3

This waterproof MP3 player comes equipped with an armband holder. The device provides 1 GB of music which translates to 240 songs. Waterproof depth extends to 15'.

Price: \$149.99  
Available at: [Finisinc.com](http://Finisinc.com)

### KODAK PLAYSPORT Video Camera

This rugged, durable pocket HD video camera is waterproof up to 10 feet and offers built-in software and USB cable output so pictures can be edited and shared easily.

Price: \$149.95  
Available: [Kodak.com](http://Kodak.com)

## Spring Break Gadgets

*These hot gadgets will keep technologically savvy HU students in tune, up to speed and connected... even on the beach.*

### iHome Protective (Water/Sand Resistant) Speaker Case for iPod

The iHome case is a portable, water-resistant speaker case that securely holds an iPod so that it can easily be transported to the beach or party safely. The device also charges the iPod and comes equipped with a built-in remote.

Price: \$49.99  
Available at: [iHomeAudio.com](http://iHomeAudio.com)

### FLO TV Handheld Television

The FLO will keep users up-to-date on television shows. Using a unique tuner and operating off a mobile TV network, FLO users can enjoy 24/7 access to live sports, breaking news and popular shows. With a 3.5" touch LCD screen, the FLO comes with a 6-month subscription.

Price: \$199.95  
Available at: [FloTV.com](http://FloTV.com)

*Interested in writing for Business & Technology?*

E-mail [hilltopbt@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopbt@gmail.com)  
with your information or story ideas!

**THE HILLTOP**





Nicolette McClendon - Cartoonist

## Freaknik Announces New Atlanta Takeover

It started almost 30 years ago as a casual gathering of young people, mostly from historically black colleges and universities. Scheduled to coincide with the breaks of area Atlanta schools, students got together in Atlanta for a long weekend of dancing, partying, and socializing with students from other universities, who begun migrating to Atlanta to attend the event as it gained popularity during the '90s.

Although Freaknik started as a harmless means of young black students and professionals to get together for a week-end of fun, over the years it evolved into a source of public concern, in terms of both the inconvenience and inequity. As Freaknik's popularity steadily increased over the years, the complaints started rolling in.

Atlanta residents complained about the throngs of intoxicated college students crowding bars and clubs, congestion on city roads, and

the increase of crime that plagued the city during the long weekend.

Of course, complain-ers were happy to see the limitations placed on the weekend, and eventually moved to a number of different cities.

### Our View:

*Atlanta needs to brace itself for the return of the debauchery-Freaknik is back.*

Unfortunately for those who don't approve of the event, after several years, Freaknik is back. It's returning during the third weekend in April, justly dubbed the "Super Freak" weekend.

Freaknik may be considered the "black Mardi Gras," and a returning tradition for black college students around the nation — but it was obviously shut down for

a reason. This year, the surrounding area is reportedly abstaining from selling alcohol during the weekend, to combat unnecessary drunken violence or belligerence.

But just because liquor won't be sold that weekend, doesn't mean that there won't be drinking, and a potential repeat of the reasons Freaknik was moved in the first place.

Atlanta mayor and Howard alumnus, Kasim Reed admits that he attended an early Freaknik as a teenager, but is similarly opposed to its 2010 return, not because of the unwanted debauchery it brings to the city, but due to the fact that the event is overwhelmingly unorganized, and not well managed.

Regardless of the opinions of Atlanta residents, and even public officials, it seems as though Freaknik is making a comeback, hopefully returning with a bit more couth than it left with.

## Perspective

### Enter at Your Own Risk

How do you feel about mice? Anyone who knows me knows that I am not too fond of them. With that said, imagine my horror at the fact that rodents and roaches run rampant in my place of residence — the West Towers.

Now, I know what you may be thinking, "Oh, you must be trifling if you have rodent problems! Just clean up and they'll leave you alone."

My suitemate and I have taken the necessary precautions to avoid such problems. No food or dirty dishes are left on the counter or sink, we bleach our floors daily, and we don't leave trash in our suite.

Our rooms remain uncluttered and clean just so that we do not attract a third suitemate. Furthermore, we have electronic sound repellents and several types of mouse traps strategically placed throughout the rooms.

Infestation continues to plague the West Towers and is more harmful to our health than you may think. If you didn't know, rodents carry disease. Not only that,

but mice droppings can cause lung infections and respiratory issues.

Pre-existing medical problems can become more serious if a mixture of dust and mice feces is inhaled. And I really hope that you aren't allergic to mice, because reactions like rashes and hives are not the business.

Imagine relaxing in your room, and you see a mouse running past your mirror. Imagine cooking in the kitchen, you turn around, and a mouse runs under your fridge. Imagine, walking into your suite from a long day of classes, and you are greeted by your small furry friend as your open the door.

I've tried time and time again to contact maintenance — filling out numerous request forms, and waiting a ridiculously long time only to have a new trap placed in my suite.

Frustrated, my suitemate and I have had to purchase products with our own money. It wasn't until I threatened to call the Health Department that maintenance responded to our

complaints.

This semester when I contacted the front office, the secretary seemed nonchalant and uninterested in our problem.

I was told that maintenance neither chases nor seeks mice and that all they will do is put traps out. Clearly, they haven't even been good for that!

I am sick of dealing with this issue. I am tired of finding mice droppings on my floor and I am through with seeing them scurry down the halls. I have taken my problems to maintenance, the property manager, and Residence Life.

Why are my issues not being addressed? Why am I being pushed aside as if a rodent in my living space is acceptable? I warn students enter at your own risk, because I don't see this issue being resolved anytime soon. It seems as if they just don't care.

Jenelle Diljohn,  
junior human  
development major

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

	5			3		8	1	
				2	8		9	
		8	5			4	2	
2				4	5		8	
6		9				3		2
	8		3	6				9
	2	5			7	9		
	9			8	5			
	7	1		9			3	

## Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Howard Plaza Towers  
West  
P-Level

# THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on to hilltopeditorials@gmail.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements should be sent directly to The Hilltop Business Office at campusadvertising@thehilltoponline.com

**THE HILLTOP**

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Now in its 85th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

Something to say?  
Speak up.

Send your perspectives  
to hilltopeditorials@gmail.  
com



# Caught In Style

The poncho!



**Get To Know:** Shannon Ellis, Philadelphia, Pa., first-year medical school psychology student  
**Caught:** Outside School of Engineering Building

**Get The Look...**

Black suede boots, Macy's Sweater Dress, Bloomingdale's Poncho, Forever 21 Sunglasses, Chanel

**Don't Be Afraid To...** wear what you are comfortable in! Don't wear heels if they hurt your feet and you know you are going to end up walking around looking funny by the end of the day. Also, you don't have to get dressed for anyone but yourself! As long as you are putting clothes on you are dressed!

**My Style Tells You...** that even though it's 60 something degrees outside it's STILL winter!

**Take It From Me (style tip):** Hold your head high and walk proudly. It makes you look 100 percent better. When you are about your business and making the right decisions, nobody can take your confidence away.

**It's Always About...** confidence!

**It's Never About...** what the next person is wearing or DOING.

**I Love My Style Because...** I am comfortable all day everyday from working with the kiddies, all the way to the gym!

- Compiled by Aaron Randle, Staff Writer

Check the bag... (and the shoes)!



**Get To Know:** Arie Adams, Detroit, Mich., sophomore finance major  
**Caught:** On The Yard

**Get The Look...**

Ralph Lauren Custom Fit Army Shirt, Saks Fifth Ave. Men's Store  
 Ricky Ralph Lauren Jeans (RRL), Ralph Lauren Store  
 Gucci Driving Shoe, Neiman Marcus  
 Rolex Watch, Gift from father

**Don't Be Afraid To...** dress different from your friends. Your attire should symbolize yourself and what you're feeling, not what others are feeling. Being different is the way to go.

**My Style Tells You...** that I am a nice person. The style that I am portraying is very clean-cut and preppy. My personality is very calm and friendly and I think my style tells you that.

**It's Always About...** presentation and execution, these two go hand in hand. When you dress, you want to give off a certain image. That image is called presentation. How you go about getting that image is execution. In order to be a great dresser, you have to do those things very well.

**It's Never About...** brands and labels. Oftentimes, folks get hung up on names instead of quality. Focusing on that will make you very broke because you will be paying for a good that might not be worth what your are paying for.

**I Love My Style Because...** It's me. Some folks might talk about the way I dress, but at the end of the day, my style will always be my style and I will never change it.

Because you can never go wrong with tweed... ever.



**Get To Know:** Khyrie Alleyne, Brooklyn, N.Y., sophomore political science  
**Caught:** On Georgia Avenue

**Get The Look...**

Handmade double stitched two-toned Simbois Culture, Daffy  
 Four-button brown on brown stitched vest, Urban Outfitters

**Don't Be Afraid To...** color coordinate your assemble using what I like to call 'The Two-Toned effect.' Take two shades of the same color and see what happens.

**My Style Tells You...** that I am approachable and a great communicator. My style and the manner in which I assemble my apparel speaks to everyone: no matter who they are, what elements they bring forth or where they are from.

**Take It From Me (style tip):** Your style is what people see before they get to know you. Try and dress in a manner which welcomes all, while exuding confidence and all that highlights you.

**It's Always About...** how you interact with people on the first encounter. People usually judge you by what they see, especially when you don't get a chance to engage in dialogue. So what better way is there for you to put your best foot forward other than through your style!

**It's Never About...** how much each item you wear costs, but more so how your put it together!

**I Love My Style Because...** it screams my four C's: conviction, confidence, courage and communication.

## Plastic Surgery Becoming a Popular Trend

BY KARA SINGLETON  
 Staff Writer

While many people choose cosmetic surgery for varying reasons, the trend continues to increase in popularity in America. Patients that may be unsatisfied with their natural proportions or appearance are able to change their looks to suit their specific desires.

The obsession with looks and beauty has definitely led to a surge in cosmetic medical procedures in America. Echoe Malone, a junior theatre arts major said, "Plastic surgery is becoming less taboo and, in some instances, almost celebrated because people are more than willing to show off the work they've had done on their bodies."

Stars such as Janice Dickinson and Lil' Kim flaunt their enhanced features proudly. Plastic Surgeon Dr. Henry Paul, Jr. of the Howard University Hospital agrees with Malone. "The expansion of information capabilities and people having access to what plastic surgery really is through the visual media and the Web is the primary reason for its current popularity," Paul said.

According to Paul, another reason for the popularity of plastic surgery is because of competitive pricing. Competition makes the pricing more affordable and more marketable to the average American.

On the contrary, stars are giving rise to a false sense of who they really are. Junior fashion merchandising major Lanice Bynum does not see why people glorify the looks of stars because to her "giving yourself something that people aren't naturally blessed with gives

people a fake impression of beauty." While it is not impossible to be blessed with a perfect body, it is highly unlikely.

"Barbie" and "Ken" stereotypes are hard to live up to without cosmetic enhancement. This ultimately causes some average Americans to have low self-images and resort to drastic measures in order to achieve socialized standards of beauty. Malone sees plastic surgery as a way to "add to ones confidence."

In relation to African Americans opting to undergo cosmetic surgery, Bynum is appalled. She said, "It's bad press for African-American women because white people look at us and see that we are altering ourselves to look like them and that leads into the stereotypes that black people glorify European beauty." Nevertheless, plastic surgery presents an issue of exterior versus interior beauty.

Self-esteem is vital in the clash between inner and outer beauty. Plastic surgery is not a way to internal happiness, but at times is used as a means to happiness and or self-fulfillment. "Some people make that error and try to use cosmetic surgery to fill voids, but it is the responsibility of the professional to prompt the patient that plastic surgery is not the way to happiness," said Paul.

False images plastered throughout the media has contributed to this current craze and should not constitute low self-esteem at all. Some students are under the impression that the media is fake itself. They believe it is possible that images are contoured to make celebrities more appealing to the public. "Those images are photoshopped and altered," one

student said. However, knowing these facts does not deter people from surgery.

The present trend of cosmetic surgery has affected everyone. A common misconception is that this issue only affects women. Men also have problems with body image. Bynum said, "Some of these men on television are on steroids and get silicon injections into their muscles. This makes the average male think that he's inadequate."

Enhancement and alteration can be done through other methods such as push-up bras, butt pads and body shapers. While these alternatives are widely advertised and publicized as inexpensive fixes to body image issues they have been ignored. People seem to prefer more dramatic and permanent results. Malone explained, "It can be costly but rewarding to many people who have invested in it."

Plastic surgery is a monetary investment and a devotion to beauty. An attachment to perfection can be labeled as an addiction. "Anything in America can be addicting. Food, shopping, plastic surgery, spending money, big houses can be addicting," Bynum said. Pointing to the fast-paced life centered around perfection in America, it is almost easy to see why people have given into this fad. The fixation on perfection and what it takes to be perfect fuel the cosmetic surgery industry. From a professional standpoint, Paul has noticed that people with emotional issues are more likely to become obsessive with surgery.

Malone thinks it's simple. "Just like a tattoo — once you have one, you're probably more likely to get another if you were pleased with the results."



Photo Courtesy of [www.calabasaccosmeticsurgery.org](http://www.calabasaccosmeticsurgery.org)

The surge in cosmetic procedures has risen largely due to the increased media coverage of "enhanced" celebrities and more affordable surgeries.

Perfection is the connection between cosmetic surgery and the fine print attached to the operations. The dangerous and long-term repercussions do not deter the larger amounts of Americans going under the knife for cosmetic reasons. When asked about the dangers, Bynum replied, "Any surgery is dangerous." Malone is convinced that "everyone should be well-informed of the tremendous risks before going under the knife, which can even include death."

The heightened exposure to beauty modifications will present a continued interest in cosmetic surgery and possibly make it a mainstay. Although its name receives

much scrutiny, Paul recognizes both sides of the word by clarifying the word plastic. "The expression 'plastic' is derived from the Greek word 'plastos,' which means to mold and shape. But the negative cogitations arise from the side that appeals to or answers vanity." Being obsessed with perfection will lead to a dedication to achieving beauty at all cost and as a result, plastic surgery will continue to thrive.



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## Important Surveys Coming Soon!

### A Heads Up: Institutional Assessment Continues With Spring Surveys

The Howard University Office of Institutional Assessment & Evaluation (OIAE) strongly advances the aim of "working together to create a culture of evidence-based decision making." Input and feedback from every group of "stakeholders" (those with a stake in the success of students) is needed and valued by the University as it moves to continually improve. Information from the most important stakeholders, students, is most vital. Several important assessment activities are coming in the weeks ahead.

The *Your First College Year Survey* (YFCY) is the first national survey designed specifically to assess the academic and personal development of students over their first year of college. Developed by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA, YFCY enables institutions to identify features of the first year that encourage student learning, involvement, satisfaction, retention and success, thereby enhancing first-year programs and retention strategies at campuses across the country. It thereby allows for comparison with a national sample of institutions on these factors. The YFCY Survey also serves as a follow-up to the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey that Howard has participated in since 1966. Therefore, it is particularly important for first year students that completed the CIRP in September to also complete the YFCY at this time.

ALL FIRST YEAR STUDENTS are strongly encouraged to take the time to respond to the YFCY on-line, whether or not they completed the CIRP survey earlier. Beginning March 12, 2010, all first-year students are strongly urged to check their HU e-mail and/or their preferred e-mail account that was provided during the admissions process. Expect to find an e-mail message from [YourFirstCollegeYearSurvey@datarecognition.com](mailto:YourFirstCollegeYearSurvey@datarecognition.com) and Dr. James H. Wyche, HU Provost and Chief Academic Officer, that provides instructions and a link for accessing the on-line survey form. The survey will be conducted through April. Let your voice be heard; your opinion counts!

The *College Senior Survey* (CSS) is also a national survey developed by HERI at UCLA. It serves as an 'exit' or 'senior' survey that elicits valuable feedback on a broad range of students' academic and campus life experiences - information that is used for planning and policy analysis. This survey complements the internal *Howard University Graduating Student Exit Surveys* (for Undergraduate and Graduate students) that have been developed and are administered on-line by the Office of Institutional Assessment & Evaluation (OIAE) during the graduation clearance process. SENIORS AND GRADUATING STUDENTS should participate in these surveys as they complete their requirements. The specific dates and information concerning these surveys will be announced. ALL STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PERIODICALLY CHECK E-MAIL MESSAGES ON THEIR HU E-MAIL ACCOUNT, as it is the primary method used by the University to communicate such information. Howard University truly values and appreciates the support of its students in assessing and promoting institutional improvement.